LIBRARY

BLACKWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1943

By
A. H. WEAR, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.,
Medical Officer of Health.

King & Bird, Printers, Mansfield.

With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health.

BLACKWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1943

By
A. H. WEAR, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.,
Medical Officer of Health.

King & Bird, Printers, Mansfield.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health—

A. H. WEAR, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.

Sanitary Inspectors—

R. CLARKSON (a) (b)

I. N. CREEAR (a) (b)

(a) Certificate for inspection of meat and other foods;

(b) S. I. Certificate of R.S.I.

PREFACE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BLACKWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1943.

Housing continues to cause a good deal of anxiety, and it is essential that the provision of new houses should be proceeded with at the earliest opportunity.

Apart from scabies and an outbreak towards the end of the year of mild influenza, the health of the district has remained extremely good.

May I take this opportunity of acknowledging with thanks the assistance received during the year from the Members and Officials of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

"Dale Close,"
100, Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	21,922
Rateable Value, 1943	£164,185
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1943	£641

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

As stated in previous reports, the social conditions are mainly industrial, the chief occupation of the inhabitants being coal mining.

During 1943 the number of evacuees diminished still further, but owing to the bringing back of ex-miners into the coal industry and other causes, the housing shortage still remains very difficult.

The Elm Tree, Amber House and Amber Vale Hostels still continue to do good service, although the number of evacuees staying at Elm Tree Hostel, which comes directly under my care, has been less than in previous years.

Chief Causes of Invalidity in the District.

Scabies continues to be the most common cause of invalidity in this area, and the disinfestation centres at Elm Tree Hostel and Bolsover Baths were kept very busy. There is no doubt that the disease has increased very considerably as the result of the war, and 1,381 cases were treated this year at the two disinfestation centres as compared with 267 in 1941 and 894 in 1942.

There has also been a slight increase in the number of cases of verminous heads amongst children. This is partly

due to the fact that large numbers of mothers are on war work and have not the time to look after their little ones properly. In the late summer arrangements were made to treat some of these neglected children at the Disinfestation Centre at Elm Tree Hostel, and during the latter four months of the year 39 children were cleansed.

Nutrition.

Nutrition amongst school children is definitely higher than in pre-war days and is due largely to the provision of extra milk and mid-day meals. Another important factor is that there is practically no unemployment, and generally speaking the wage level has increased sufficiently to counter balance the increased cost of living, and consequently the great majority of families have more food purchasing power.

It is estimated that 73% of infants and toddlers in this area are taking advantage of the vitamins provided for children under 5 years of age. This figure compares very favourably with the official one of 50% which was given last October for the whole of the country. An extension of the scheme has recently been made to Nursery Schools and Classes for children under 5, and so far seven Infant Schools in this area are supplying the vitamins.

In November a new drink—National Milk Cocoa—was introduced by the Ministry. It is manufactured particularly for the benefit of adolescent workers employed at factories or other industrial undertakings, and is being sold at one penny per cup. Five factories in the area are supplying this drink to their workers.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS:

Live Births—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	830	396	434	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 21.62.
Illegitimate	37	17	20	
Still Births	36	19	17	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 39.9.
	Total	Males	Females	
DEATHS	394	229	165	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 9.8.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General Short List):—

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births
No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis	2	2.2
No. 30	Other puerperal causes	1	1.1
	Total	3	3.3

DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	46.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	44.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	81.0

DEATHS FROM:—

Measles (all ages)	2
Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	5
Cancer (all ages)	53
Premature births	7
Congenital Malformation	15
Pneumonia (under 1 year)	8
Marasmus	3

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1943.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhœa and Enteritis, under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	16·5	0·5	12·1	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·03	0·03	0·37	—	5·3	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	18·6	0·63	14·2	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·03	0·04	0·36	—	7·9	58
148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted) Populations 25,000—50,000 ..	19·4	0·61	12·7	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·03	0·04	0·37	—	4·4	46
London	15·8	0·45	15·0	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·03	0·02	0·27	—	10·4	58
BLACKWELL R.D.	21·62	0·89	9·8	0·00	—	0·04	0·00	0·04	0·00	0·17	—	5·7	46

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

No changes or developments have been made in connection with laboratory facilities. The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows:—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Enterica—			
Typhoid, Para-Typhoid A & B	—	4	4
Gaertner, Dysentry, etc.	—	4	4
Diphtheria	14	108	122
Phthisis	2	69	71
Water	2	10	12
Milk:			
T.B. Inoculation sent from Ministry of Agriculture	6	18	24
T.B. Inoculation, Routine Samples	5	160	165
Methylene Blue Test, Routine Samples	73	136	209
Bacillus Coli., Routine Samples	45	166	211
Bacterial Count, Routine Samples	1	30	31
Miscellaneous	1	32	33
Totals	149	737	886

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Meden Valley Water Works Committee continue to supply upwards of one million gallons of water per day into the district, together with emergency supplies to outside Authorities. .1 part per million of free chlorine is now added.

The water has been analysed at regular intervals and found satisfactory. It has become $2\frac{1}{2}$ degrees harder since January, 1940, and the following is a table of temporary and permanent hardness since March, 1935.

Date	Temporary	Permanent	Total
29/3/1935	4.4	3.6	8
14/2/1936	4.5	4.5	8.8
16/1/1940	5.9	8.8	9.8
8/2/1944	5.6	6.6	12.3

Over 90% of the houses in Blackwell Rural District have a piped supply.

Part of the village of Shirebrook, known as the Model Village, is supplied by the Colliery Company, who obtain their water from a well in the magnesium limestone, and who recently have augmented their supply by pumping water from the Sookholme Stream which is grossly polluted.

The supply shows 38 degrees of hardness; it is being chlorinated, and as much as .8 parts per million of free chlorine is added. Bacteriological samples after chlorination have been up to standard, but I view the supply from the stream as most unsatisfactory and only allowed as an emergency measure in wartime.

Water Main Extensions.

A supply has been afforded to a farm and two small holdings at Stainsby Mill, hitherto supplied from private springs.

HOUSING.

No houses were erected during the year.

The housing position is most unsatisfactory, and, owing to the restriction in building, the position is getting worse.

Below is a schedule giving details of the number of houses required to re-house families at present occupying condemned houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses, and those living under overcrowded conditions. The figures relating to overcrowding only refer to the known cases, most of which were disclosed as a result of the Overcrowding Survey which was carried out before the War. I have no doubt that a new survey would disclose many more cases of overcrowding, but in view of the present fluctuations in the population, I do not consider the time is opportune to carry out such a survey.

In considering sites for new houses, I think it is well to bear in mind that when the present restrictions on the closure and demolition of unsatisfactory houses are removed there will be many houses in the district requiring attention, particularly in Pinxton and Langwith.

Parish	Occupied Houses in Clearance Areas or subject to Demolition orders	Overcrowded Houses	Total
South Normanton	22	9	31
Pinxton	3	8	11
Blackwell	3	2	5
Tibshelf	2	1	3
Shirebrook	—	4	4
Scarcliffe	1	—	1
Ault Hucknall	—	—	—
Pleasley	1	1	2
Glapwell	—	—	—
Totals	32	25	57

It is interesting to note that between 1930 and 1937 inclusive, 331 houses were dealt with under the Slum Clearance

Act of 1930, of these 230 were in Clearance Areas and 101 were Individual Unfit. The following table shows the number in each parish.

Parish.	Houses.
Ault Hucknall and Glapwell	15
Pinxton	89
Blackwell	23
Pleasley	9
Scarcliffe	8
Shirebrook	47
South Normanton	95
Tibshelf	45

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk, Meat and other Foods.

Full details of these will be found in the Sanitary Inspectors reports.

I am informed that the average weekly issue of dried milk is 500 tins, which is 40% higher than a year ago. The Half Cream variety is still available, and is very useful for delicate babies who are unable to digest the full cream.

URGENT SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

1. Conversion of the pail closets at Pinxton.
2. Re-conditioning and augmenting of the Shirebrook Sewage Works to allow a general conversion scheme to be carried out in this village.
3. Connecting a sewer from 90 houses at Blackwell Colliery to the Primrose Hill Works, and the conversion of Blackwell Colliery, Primrose Hill and B. Winning houses to the water carriage system.
4. Properties with one tap to four or five houses to have a proper water supply.
5. Demolition of certain slum properties at Pinxton and Langwith.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1943.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases notified													Total Cases notified in each Parish of the District									Total Cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all Ages	At Ages—years												Shirebrook	Normanton	Pinxton	Tibshelf	Blackwell	Pleasley	Scarcliffe	A. Hucknall	Glapwell		
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & upwards											
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	21	—	1	—	—	—	10	5	3	—	—	1	1	9	9	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	21	—
Erysipelas	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	2	4	1	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	80	—	2	4	8	11	34	13	3	4	1	—	—	15	9	7	8	3	10	21	6	1	74	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	6	4	6	1	7	4	2	—	1	1	4	1	4	—	13
Other forms of Tuberculosis	11	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	1	1	1	1	—	4	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Pneumonia	51	2	—	3	1	1	3	2	3	10	9	13	4	9	6	11	8	3	—	7	4	3	—	25
Chicken-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	1
Whooping Cough	140	12	23	9	8	21	57	10	—	—	—	—	—	38	—	5	18	9	—	15	49	6	—	2
Measles	770	43	82	88	64	93	289	86	21	4	—	—	—	193	52	49	54	77	4	282	52	7	—	2
TOTALS	1118	58	109	105	82	126	396	124	36	33	16	25	8	282	84	78	89	98	18	334	113	22	100	46

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

21 notifications were received and all the cases were removed to hospital. 16 were children under 14 years of age, and of these only 9 had been immunised. There were no deaths.

The following table gives the number of cases notified since 1938:

Year:	No. of Cases:
1938	142
1939	85
1940	36
1941	45
1942	16
1943	21

Immunisation.

The percentage of children immunised at the end of 1943 was toddlers 57 and school children 79, compared with 38 and 74 at the end of December, 1942. The total percentages of all children in this area who have received the two injections is 68.

During the year a special drive has been made regarding the immunisation of those children under 5 years of age. The Health Visitors in the course of their home visits endeavoured to obtain the consent of the parents, and mothers attending the Food Office have been given a form to sign; posters have also been placed in different parts of the area.

With regard to the school children, practically all the parents who are willing to have their children immunised have signed the necessary consent form, the small number left are very definitely against the scheme, and persuasion with this type of individual is of little avail.

Scarlet Fever.

80 cases were notified, of which 15 were at Shirebrook and 21 in the Parish of Scarcliffe, mainly in the village of Langwith. The spread of the infection was chiefly due to direct contact in the schools.

Scarlet fever nowadays is mild in type, and if there is adequate isolation and nursing facilities, etc., the patient may be kept at home.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

770 notifications of Measles and 140 of Whooping Cough were received.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

2 cases were notified and both were removed to Lodge Moor Fever Hospital.

Food Poisoning.

An outbreak occurred at Shirebrook, five persons in one family being affected. Samples of the meat, etc., were sent for analysis, but no organisms of the food poisoning group were discerned.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the diseases during the year:—

Age Periods in years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10	1	3	2	2	—	—	—	1
15	—	3	1	—	—	2	—	—
20	1	3	—	1	—	1	—	—
25	2	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
35	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
55	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	12	12	6	5	8	5	1	1

The phthisis death-rate is 0.37 per 1,000 of the population.

REPORTS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

NORTHERN AREA.

Comprising the Parishes of Shirebrook, Scarcliffe, Pleasley, Ault Hucknall and Glapwell. 14,626 acres.

Sanitary Inspector: I. N. CREEAR, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

(i.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

(ii.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and other Foods).

(iii.) Member of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

Offices: Cliffe House, Shirebrook.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

General Sanitation:

Water Supplies	12
Drainage	99
Stables and Piggeries	16
Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	186
Re-inspections of Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	160
Fried Fish Shops	18
Public Conveniences	9
Factories and Bakehouses	24
Refuse Collection	130
Refuse Disposal	98
Rats and Mice	80
Cinemas	4
Petroleum Acts	36
Inquiries re cases of Infectious Disease	70
Inquiries re cases of Scabies	37
Interviews and Appointments	729
General Inspections	45
Miscellaneous Visits	380

Housing:

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	148
Re-visits to houses inspected under Public Health Acts	290
Number of houses inspected re overcrowding	2

Meat and Food Inspection:

Visits to Slaughterhouses	26
Shops and Stalls (re meat)	410
Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts	44
Other Food Premises	335
Cowsheds inspected	290
Dairies and Milkshops inspected	310
Visits re National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme	15

Miscellaneous:

Government Evacuation Scheme	17
Salvage	422

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Council continue to adminster delegated powers in respect of this Act.

A part-time Rat Catcher is employed, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and during the year 936 rats were destroyed, 29 baits laid, and 58 burrows gassed.

Infestation Order, 1943.

As a result of the "Direction" received under this Order, a complete survey (excluding agricultural premises) was made of the area. No serious rat infestation was noted.

Number of inspections made	23

The work of destruction necessitated as a result of the survey was in progress at the end of the year, when the following action had been taken:—

Number of inspections made	23
Number of unpoisoned Token Baits laid	134
Number of poisoned baits laid	46

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

789 inspections were made during the year to food shops and premises where food is prepared for sale. The Regional Slaughterhouse is still at Chesterfield Abattoir. 350 pigs were slaughtered by cottagers for private consumption.

Unsound food condemned amounted to 6,276 lbs.

Clean milk production necessitated 600 visits to cowsheds and dairies. 18 improvements were effected either by service of notice or interviewing the owners.

Milk Samples.

The following samples of milk were submitted for examination:—

Pasteurised Milk:

Bacteriological examination	8 satisfactory
Phosphatase test	7 satisfactory
Phosphatase test	(1 unsatisfactory)

New Milk:

M/Blue test	98 (67 satisfactory, 31 unsatisfactory)
B/Coli	100 (77 satisfactory, 23 unsatisfactory)
Biological Examination	84 (2 positive tuberculosis)

NATIONAL MILK TESTING AND ADVISORY SCHEME.

In 1942 this scheme was brought in to deal with wholesale milk producers in Derbyshire. Your Sanitary Inspectors investigated all cases of unsatisfactory samples. Later in the year it was applied to produce-retailers. Monthly samples are now taken under the supervision of the Midland Agricultural College.

SCAVENGING AND SALVAGE.

This work has been carried out on the whole very satisfactorily. Shortage of suitable labour and holding up in repairs have caused delays occasionally, but the removal of nightsoil has been done regularly. The tips have been kept in good condition. Bins and closet pails are emptied weekly except in the most densely populated parts, where the pails are emptied twice weekly.

The collection of salvage is carried out by trailers attached to the three scavenging lorries.

The total weight of salvage collected during the year was 204 tons.

The following table gives details of the work carried out during the year:—

Month	Dustbins emptied	Ashpits emptied	Pail closets emptied	Cesspools emptied	Total No. of loads removed
January	12,859	10	6,254	7	306
February	10,907	—	6,435	5	281
March	14,324	—	7,264	11	346
April	14,477	1	7,301	9	318
May	14,469	—	6,383	11	316
June	14,284	9	7,095	10	337
July	13,574	1	7,264	15	324
August	16,951	7	7,051	12	338
September	15,458	6	6,966	19	366
October	15,812	3	7,050	18	359
November	17,281	7	6,987	14	447
December	16,834	10	7,451	12	379
Totals	177,230	54	83,501	143	4,117

The number of complaints received during the year was 79. A large number of them were of a trivial nature and

could not be dealt with under the Public Health Acts. In every case where a complaint was found to be bona-fide action was duly taken.

Disinfection.

Number of infected rooms disinfected	670
Bundles of bedding removed for disinfection ..	431
Samples of water submitted for examination	11

My ordinary duties have been considerably interfered with owing to additional duties in connection with the National Emergency. This report, therefore, has been abbreviated in certain sections.

I. N. CREEAR, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector, Northern Area.

SOUTHERN AREA.

Comprising the parishes of Blackwell, Pinxton, South Normanton and Tibshelf - 7,296 acres.

Sanitary Inspector: ROBERT CLARKSON.

(i.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

(ii.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and other Foods).

(iii.) Member of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

Offices: Victoria Street, South Normanton, Derbys.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

General Sanitation:

Water Supplies	4
Drainage	137
Stables and Piggeries	36
Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	395
Re-Inspections of Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	164
Fried Fish Shops	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	3
Public Conveniences	3
Factories and Bake-houses	18
Outworkers' Premises	3
Refuse Collection	127
Refuse Disposal	118
Rats and Mice	160
Schools	2
Cinemas	1
Shops Acts	1
Petroleum Acts	29
Inquiries re Cases of Infectious Disease	39
Inquiries re Cases of Scabies	135
Interviews and Appointments	320
General Inspections	5
Miscellaneous Visits	460

Housing:

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	83
Re-visits to houses ,, ,,	128
Number of houses inspected under Housing Acts	11
Re-visits to houses ,, ,,	83
Number of houses inspected re overcrowding	9
Re-visits paid to houses ,,	14
Number of verminous houses inspected	21
Re-visits to above houses	68

Meat and Food Inspection:

Visits to Slaughterhouses	89
Occasional Slaughterings (Farms, etc.)	62
Shops and Stalls (re meat)	415
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	12
Other Food Premises	180
Cowsheds inspected	344
Dairies and Milkshops inspected	355
Visits re National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme	25

Miscellaneous:

A.R.P.—Visits, Interviews, etc.	291
Government Evacuation Scheme	37
Salvage	516

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

	Served during 1943	Complied with during 1943	Outstanding on 31/12/43
Informal Public Health Act Notices	487	234	438
Statutory Public Health Act Notices	10	15	27
Informal Housing Act Notices	—	—	—
Statutory Housing Act Notices	11	13	63
Total	508	262	528

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Dwelling Houses:

Cleansed	13
Air Space improved	—
Lighting improved	—
Ventilation improved	1
Windows repaired	9
Walls rendered free from dampness	19
Plasterwork repaired	10
Floors re-laid or repaired	11
Woodwork renewed or repaired	3
Fireplaces and grates repaired	7
Kitchen boilers repaired	7
Cooking facilities improved	3
Food stores improved	3
Coal stores improved	—
Washing accommodation provided or improved	2
Internal water supply provided	1
Roofs repaired	35
Walls pointed and brickwork repaired	15
Chimney stacks repaired	10
Damp proof course provided	—
Eaves gutters and downspouts repaired	15
Yards and passages paved or repaired	6
Yards cleansed	1
Living vans removed	—
Miscellaneous defects remedied	2
Baths provided	1

Drainage:

Drainage provided, re-laid or repaired	11
Drains cleansed	21
Gullies provided or repaired	12
Inspection Chambers provided or repaired	7

Ventilators repaired		1
Premises drained by provision of cesspool		—
Cesspools repaired		1
Cesspools abolished		—
Cesspools cleansed		1
Drains connected to sewer		1
Length of drainage examined	yards	82

Sinks:

New sinks provided	3
New sink waste pipes provided	2
Sink waste pipes repaired	2

Closet Accommodation:

Buildings repaired	18
Closets cleansed	3
Water closet cisterns provided or repaired	9
Water closet pedestals renewed	1
Water closet service pipes repaired	7
Closet pails renewed	73

Ashplaces, Ashbins, etc.

Defective ashbins renewed	83
Ashplaces and middens abolished	1
Ashbins provided in lieu of ashplaces and middens	1

Miscellaneous:

Dangerous, defective and dilapidated buildings demolished	1
Accumulation removed	2
Manure pits provided or repaired	—
Urinals repaired and cleansed	1
Nuisances abated from keeping of animals	3
Other nuisances abated	1

The work required under six statutory notices was carried out by the Council in default of the owners, from whom the costs were recovered. This necessitated the relaying of one drain and the provision of five ashbins.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

There has been little alteration during the year to the types of sanitary conveniences in use, and the details of those in use are similar to the figures set out in previous reports. Six conversions have taken place (five pail closets and one privy), and one additional water closet has been provided.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

The continued shortage of building operatives makes it extremely difficult to secure the execution of housing repairs, other than urgent defects such as leaking roofs, very damp walls, leaking and defective drains, etc. As a result many houses are falling into a state of disrepair, and will present a serious problem, requiring urgent attention immediately there are more experienced workmen available. During the year, Section 9 notices requiring the repair of 11 houses have been served. Seven of the houses had been rendered fit for habitation by the end of the year.

A number of houses subject to individual Demolition Orders and in Clearance Areas continued to be occupied, whilst many are empty and in a derelict state. Three houses have been re-occupied under the Defence (General) Regulations as follows:—

Regulation 68a—one house.
Regulation 51 (requisitioned by Council)—two houses.

It has not been possible to obtain accurate information as to the extent to which overcrowding exists, and a new survey of the district is desirable as soon as circumstances permit. Many houses still continue to provide accommodation for evacuees, and in some parishes for large numbers of workmen engaged in Open Cast Coal Mining. The 23

inspections made regarding overcrowding indicate that many houses contain two or more separate families, and there appears little hope of relief until new houses are erected.

One notice regarding overcrowding was served and complied with.

Eradication of Vermin.

89 inspections and re-inspections of dwelling houses have been made during the year on account of vermin (bed bugs) infestation, and the following work carried out:—

Number of Council houses disinfested	2
Number of other houses disinfested	6
Total	8

Verminous articles destroyed.

7 mattresses, 3 blankets, 3 pillows.

In each case the house was sprayed with a vermicide on the first day, after the removal of skirting boards, mouldings, etc., and on the second day, fumigation with a block disinfestator took place. The results have been very satisfactory.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Careful attention has been paid during the year to the conditions under which meat and other foods are stored and prepared for sale, a total of 762 inspections being made for this purpose. The preparing room of one fish frier's premises has been re-constructed, and in one instance it was necessary to complain of the careless handling of meat during delivery from the regional slaughterhouse.

Chesterfield Municipal Abattoir continues to be used as the regional slaughterhouse for this area. There has been a further increase in the number of cottagers' pigs slaughtered, 273 being examined (212 in private slaughterhouses and 61 on private premises).

Unsound food condemned amounted to 2,413 lbs. (32 lbs. beef and beef offal for bruising and cirrhosis, 388 lbs. of

pork and pork offal for tuberculosis, and 1,993 lbs. of other foods—chiefly tinned goods). The tubercular pork and pork offal showed that 6.23% of the cottagers' pigs slaughtered were affected with localised tuberculosis.

Increased attention has been given to the production and distribution of milk, 699 inspections being made of cowsheds and dairies. These inspections resulted in the serving of 17 notices and the securing of 46 improvements in methods of production and distribution, or to registered premises.

Seven licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, are in operation in respect of the retailing of Pasteurised Milk.

Milk Samples:

The following samples of milk were submitted for examination:—

Pasteurised Milk:

Bacteriological examination	12 satisfactory
Phosphatase test	12 satisfactory

New Milk:

M/Blue test	115 (83 satisfactory, 32 unsatisfactory)
B/Coli test	117 (92 satisfactory, 25 unsatisfactory)
Bacteriological examination	5 satisfactory
Biological Examination	79 (2 positive tuberculosis)

Samples of Pasteurised milk were obtained from retailers at approximately three monthly intervals, all these samples were reported to be satisfactory.

An increased number of samples of new milk have been taken, and during the year one sample was obtained from each producer in the area, and each dairyman retailing milk within the area. These samples were taken as a check against the efficiency of the cleanliness in milking and the sterilizing of churns, buckets and other utensils. On com-

paring the results with the standards laid down for Accredited milk, it was found that 28% failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test (as compared with 20% in 1942) and 21% failed to pass the Coliform Test (as compared with 20% in 1942). The increase in the number of unsatisfactory samples is no doubt due to the more comprehensive character of the scheme of sampling.

The reasons for the unsatisfactory samples are carefully investigated in each case, and many improvements have been obtained.

Of the 79 samples of milk examined for Tuberculosis, 2 (or 2.5%) were reported to contain living tubercle bacilli. These were referred, through the County Medical Officer, to the Veterinary Inspector, and resulted in the slaughter of two cows (one affected with Advanced Tuberculosis and the other with Tuberculosis not in an advanced state).

NATIONAL MILK TESTING AND ADVISORY SCHEME.

This scheme was applied to wholesale milk producers in Derbyshire during 1942, and in January, 1943, the Council agreed to co-operate with the War Agricultural Committee, and arrangements were made for the Sanitary Inspectors to investigate all reports of unsatisfactory samples. During the year 25 visits have been made to farms for this purpose.

In August the scheme was applied to produce-retailers, from whom samples are now obtained monthly and sent for examination to Laboratories under the supervision of the Midland Agricultural College. A summary of local samples obtained is given below.

Month	Number of samples placed in Category A: Good keeping quality	Category B: Moderate keeping quality	Category C: Poor keeping quality	Total number of samples
August	8	1	3	12
September	40	6	3	49
October	44	4	1	49
November	45	2	2	49
December	43	6	—	49
Totals	180	19	9	208

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Council continue to administer delegated powers in respect of this Act.

A part-time Rat Catcher is employed, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, to regularly examine and deal with rat infestation on Council premises. This routine work, which has been carried out since December, 1937, has proved very effective, and as a result the Council's refuse tips and sewage works have been kept free from serious infestation.

During the year 160 inspections were made, 95 rats destroyed, and 22 baits laid.

Infestation Order, 1943.

As a result of the "Direction" received under this Order a complete survey (excluding agricultural premises) was made of the area. No serious rat infestation was noted.

Number of inspections made	99
Number of infestations noted, "Minor Secondary Type"	11

The work of destruction necessitated as a result of the survey was in progress at the end of the year, when the following action had been taken:—

Number of inspections made	45
Number of unpoisoned Token Baits laid	131
Number of poisoned baits laid	31
Number of rats destroyed by dogs and ferrets	14

Nine notices were served during the year and complied with. In two cases the work was carried out by the Council at the owners' cost.

SCAVENGING AND SALVAGE.

The whole of this work continues to be carried out by direct labour. One of the 30 cwt. Morris Commercial refuse vehicles has been replaced by a new 2 ton Karrier Bantam. Four motor vehicles (one 30 cwt. Morris Commercial, two

2 ton Karrier Bantams and one 4 ton Austin) are used on this work, and for the cleansing of closet pails and cesspools a specially constructed tank is placed in one of the lorries.

Difficulties continue to be experienced as a result of the shortage of suitable labour, and it is almost impossible to secure the immediate repair of defective motors. No delay has arisen in connection with the cleansing of closet pails and only slight delays have taken place in the removal of domestic refuse. All night soil has been disposed of to local farmers for spreading on the land, and other refuse has been dealt with by controlled tipping.

Ashbins and closet pails are cleansed weekly, privies and ashplaces monthly, and cesspools quarterly.

The returns for the recovery and disposal of salvage for the past four years are shown below:—

1943-44: 458 tons 16 cwts. 56 lbs., £1,392 18 2.
1942-43: 631 tons 7 cwts. 30 lbs., £1,937 14 10.
1941-42: 465 tons 4 cwts. 30 lbs., £1,283 8 3.
1940-41: 266 tons 10 cwts. 76 lbs., £764 3 1½.

The various materials dealt with are summarised below:

	Tons	cwts.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	99	0	56	636	17	11
Baled destructor scrap	30	9	0	57	9	11
Other ferrous metal	22	9	28	26	17	11
Non-ferrous metal		15	1	14	11	2
Textiles	15	15	22	145	5	3
Rubber	3	12	84	9	1	10
Bones	10	8	92	49	10	10
Cinders	11	5	0	3	15	8
Bottles and Jars	23	10	99	94	16	2
Cullet	30	10	56	38	15	8
Kitchen waste	176	13	52	271	8	3
Miscellaneous (including batteries, rabbit skins, string, boots and shoes, etc.)	34	6	14	44	7	7

It will be noted that the quantiny of salvage recovered was some 172 tons less than the previous year. All

materials showed slight decreases, the biggest deficiencies being 67 tons of kitchen waste and 32 tons of paper. Whilst the decreases in many cases can be attributed to the smaller quantities of material available for salvage, there is undoubtedly a good deal of apathy on the part of certain sections of the population. Twelve written warnings were issued in respect of failure to properly store salvage pending collection, and the police successfully prosecuted one man for throwing paper onto the street. The decrease in kitchen waste collections is due to the large increase in the number of small pig keepers.

Two successful special efforts were made during the year to stimulate salvage recovery, as follows:—

1. Notts. and Derbys. Waste Paper Contest—from October, 1943, to January, 1944.
   The district secured fifth place in this contest with an average of 3.784 lbs. per head of population, and a cash prize of £15.
2. Salvage Canvass in March, 1944—special emphasis being laid on the need for more paper, rags, bones and rubber.

GENERAL.

Shortage of staff and special war-time activities continue to make it extremely difficult to keep the normal work of the department up to date. This accounted for the increase in the number of outstanding notices at the end of the year.

Salvage drives, the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, the survey of the district for rat infestation and civil defence duties have resulted in much work outside normal times, and have taken up a good deal of your Inspector's time.

During the year 93 complaints were received and investigated, 84 of which were confirmed and the defects or nuisances dealt with.

ROBERT CLARKSON, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector, Southern Area.